

Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims:

1. (Withdrawn) A protective housing for a fibre optic cable and cable junction box, comprising opposed spaced apart panels defining an interior space and which open to expose said interior space, at least one sidewall between said panels, and an optionally removable insert substantially filling said interior space, said insert including at least one channel, an end of which opens to the exterior of said housing when closed, said channel also opening to the surface of said insert for insertion of cable therein when said housing is open, said channel defining a tortuous path for receiving and gripping said cable, and a void within said insert for retaining a cable junction box in communication with said cable.
2. (Withdrawn) A housing as defined in claim 1, further comprising a removable outer casing for at least partly surrounding said housing for additional crush-resistance.
3. (Withdrawn) A housing as defined in claim 2, wherein said outer casing comprises a pair of spaced-apart opposed walls, a base and a removable cap defining an interior space with open ends to receive said housing.
4. (Withdrawn) A housing as defined in claim 3, wherein said walls are removable from said base, said base comprising a pair of spaced apart upstanding rails and said walls each including a downwardly dependent channel for mating with a corresponding rail.
5. (Withdrawn) A housing as defined in claim 1, further comprising a rigid protective cap for independent installation within a surface at a position above said housing, said cap including at least one emboss protruding outwardly from said cap for engagement with said hard surface.
6. (Currently amended) A housing for retaining a cable junction box and a cable loop independently of said cable junction box for use in a fibre optic network, comprising at least two substantially flat, open-topped compartments ~~receptacles~~ joined together ~~by a first flexible web~~ for folding said compartments ~~receptacles~~ together like a book with said open tops covered when closed, each of said compartments ~~receptacles~~ comprising a floor and sidewalls defining an interior space, said sidewalls including openings for passing cable between said interior spaces, a first of said compartments ~~receptacles~~ including a space to removably install ~~receive~~ a cable junction box and a second of said compartments ~~receptacles~~ being arranged to install ~~receive~~ at

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least one loop of cable within said interior space, said housing further including at least one entry and exit port to sealingly receive fibre optic cable within the interior thereof, said housing being configured to enclose said junction box and said cable loop independently from each other when said housing is closed.

7. (Currently amended) A housing as defined in claim 6, further including at least one hub protruding from the floor of said second compartment ~~receptacle~~ into the interior thereof for receiving a loop of cable within the interior space of said second panel.

8. (Original) A housing as defined in claim 6, wherein said cable entry and exit ports comprise at least one slot within said sidewall opening to the exposed upper surface of said sidewall when said housing is open, for inserting a length of uncut cable into the interior of said housing.

9. (Currently amended) A housing as defined in claim 6, further comprising a third of said compartments ~~receptacles~~, joined to said second compartment ~~receptacle~~ ~~by a second of said flexible webs~~, said first, second and third compartments ~~receptacles~~ being substantially identical in plan configuration, said first, second and third compartments ~~receptacles~~ being arranged for folding together in a book-like fashion, said third compartment ~~receptacle~~ comprising additional cable receiving means for receiving at least one additional loop of cable within the interior space thereof.

10. (Currently amended) A housing as defined in claim 9, wherein said compartments are joined together by first and second flexible webs which form exterior opposed sidewalls of said housing when closed.

11. (Previously amended) A housing as defined in claim 6, further comprising a hollow outer casing having an open top, an upper rim and at least two opposed slots opening to said rim for receiving cable into the interior of said casing and a removable lid for capping said open top, said slots being arranged for passing a channel-cutting tool through said slots in a single motion while cutting a cable channel through said surface, said outer casing being shaped to receive said housing within the interior thereof.

12. (Original) A housing as defined in claim 11, wherein said outer casing is substantially cylindrical for insertion within a cylindrical hole.

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13. (Original) A housing as defined in claim 11, wherein said outer casing includes a plurality of opposed substantially flat inner faces for retaining said inner housing.

14. (Withdrawn) A method of fabricating and installing within a surface a pre-assembled cable system comprising the steps of assembling at a remote location a system comprising:

a trunk cable line, a plurality of branch cable lines extending at intervals from said trunk line, and cable junction box housings at each intersection between branch and trunk lines;

determining node locations and cutting openings with said surface at said node locations;

providing and installing an open-topped outer casing within each of said openings, said casings including opposed slots opening to said open tops of said casings;

cutting a network of channels joining said nodes, said channels being aligned with said slots of said housings; and

installing by surface inlay said cables and junction box housings within said channels of said casings respectively.

15. (Withdrawn) A method as defined in claim 14 comprising the further step of cutting channels within said surface for said branch lines extending from at least one of said nodes.